

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #9

January 2006

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

MEMBERSHIP: First the good news - since the last newsletter we have had three new members. On the other hand, nine members have not yet paid their 2006 dues. Hopefully they have just forgotten to mail their check. Whatever the case, we need to grow a bit more. So, in this newsletter you will find an application for membership. Please use this to recruit a collector who might be interested in joining CARTS.

FINANCIAL: More good news - Treasurer Bob King reports that we are in good shape financially. His report is given below.

INCOME

Balance as of November 2005	\$218.40
Dues and Donations	\$340.00
Paid Ad	\$12.00
Total	\$570.40

EXPENSES

CARTSNEWS printing and mailing	\$79.39
Total	\$79.39

BALANCE as of February 2006 **\$491.01**

MEETING: Let's all celebrate the second official year of CARTS by attending the meeting on April 29. We will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in East Flat Rock. This hotel is off Interstate Highway 26 at Exit 53. (And you'll really think you are in Hendersonville instead of Flat Rock.) A map is on Page 7, but you simply take exit 53 off I-26 and go west - that's left if you are coming from Spartanburg, and right if you are coming from Asheville. At the first light that is not at an exit/entrance road, turn left on Commercial Blvd. You'll see the Holiday Inn Express practically in front of you, slightly to your left.

With the map you'll also find information about nearby Antique Shops, Flea Market, and Restaurants. Bring your spouse, along with your duplicate tokens. Let's make this meeting the largest yet!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Message

Hello to all members of CARTS. I hope that the holidays were good to you in many ways. And perhaps your New Year has brought you some good tokens already. This message will be the last to find its way to you before our next meeting, so I will give you the heads up on the specifics. The meeting will be held on April 29, 2006 near Hendersonville, NC in East Flat Rock (exit 53 off I-26). Look for a map elsewhere in this issue. We will begin promptly at 9AM with a 3 hour swap session. At noon, I will present a short slide show on South Carolina Medals, and that will be followed by a short business meeting. We will end our meeting with lunch at around 1PM. That should leave plenty time for members who would like to visit the numerous flea markets and antique stores in the area! I hope to see everyone there.

Happy Collecting,
Tony Chibbaro - President, CARTS

Contact Information:

Don Bailey

PO Box 1272
Etowah, NC 28729
e-mail: ELADON@BRINET.COM

Tony Chibbaro

PO Box 420
Prosperity, SC 29217
e-mail: CHIBBARO@MINDSPRING.COM

Bob King

33 Cardinal Dr.
Brevard, NC 28712
e-mail: TOKENADDICT@CITCOM.NET

Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

THE GREENSBORO SUPER FLEA TOKENS

Don Bailey (CM #21)

Sometimes a token doesn't look like a token. I recently bought a handful of Super Flea anniversary tokens, some of which are shown below. Even though they don't say "Good For" they really are tokens. But first, a bit about the Super Flea Flea Market.



Type I

Note the three small stars under "Anniversary"

The market is owned and operated by the Greensboro Coliseum Complex and held in the 30,000 square foot Greensboro Coliseum Pavilion. The complex is located about 1 mile off interstate 40 at Exit 217. The Super Flea Flea Market is a once a month market that was established in 1976 by Bill and Mary Smith, and attracts hundreds of dealers from throughout the Southeast.



Type II

Note the single, larger star under "Anniversary"

The tokens were given out each July at an "anniversary" market to the first 100 customers. The customer could show the token to the ticket taker for free admission to the market; and the customer got to keep the token. Pretty neat! This was a one time deal at the July market only, and was continued from 1976 through 2001 when an aluminum silver look alike token was used. There was also a dealer party each July, and tokens were given to the dealers who attended.

There are at least 4 types of tokens. (There may be more types since I do not have examples of all 26 that have been produced.)



Type III

Note the date has moved to the obverse.



Type IV

Note the larger star on the reverse

All the tokens are brass, save the last token in the series, the 2001 token, which is aluminum. The tokens up through 1996 are 32 mm in diameter, while those from 1997 through 2001 are 34 mm. The tokens still turn up at the Greensboro Super Flea Flea Market. Of course they are no longer given out to lucky buyers; instead they are found occasionally in the offerings of the dealers.

TARBORO TOKEN ATTRIBUTED

Bob King (CM #31)



**D.B. / (STAR)(BLANK)(STAR) / TARBORO, / (3 STARS)
/ N. C. // 5 / CENTS (5 CENTS SURROUNDED BY 9
STARS) / (FOLLOWING IN EXERGUE) JAS.
MURDOCK JR. 165 RACE ST. CIN'TI, O. – RD, BR,
22mm, R-4**

D.H. Barlow is listed from 1880 through 1890 as a general store and grocer. James Murdock Jr. made tokens from 1875 through 1887 at 165 Race Street. No other Tarboro listing from 1880 through 1887 had a first and last name that matches except for a dentist. This attribution cannot be certain but the odds are excellent that this token is for D.H. Barlow.

UNION

SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

William M. Graham
106 Hidden Hill Road • Union, SC 29379-9105
WMG@NUVOX.NET

ASHEVILLE SOCIAL CLUB

Bob King (CM #31)



**ASHEVILLE / SOCIAL / CLUB // GOOD FOR / 2 ½ ¢ /
IN TRADE – RD, AL, 20mm, R-4**

The Asheville Social Club was founded in 1881 with a purpose of advancing the social and literary tastes of its members. The club had 50 members by 1883, many of them among the most prominent men in Asheville. The club featured billiards, reading and conversation. Listed from 1881 through 1910.

DAVID MULLINS 1939-2006

While not a member of CARTS, David Mullins was known to many of us. David died on Jan 4, 2006, after battling leukemia for 4 months. He was 66.

David's son wrote "Dad was a token collector for as long as I can remember. He mentioned once that he started when he was working at a Kroger's in Kentucky, and coal scrip would show up in the change drawer from time to time. This would have been about 1961. Over the years, he pursued scrip, transportation tokens, video game tokens, elongated cents, Tennessee-related medals, and other exnumia, as well as U.S. coins, but his constant interest was Tennessee trade tokens. He chased them for over forty years. His tokens gave him great pleasure. He enjoyed putting together and having what may be the largest Tennessee collection extant, but he enjoyed even more going to flea markets, antique malls, metal detector clubs, and talking to the many people from whom he acquired the tokens. The tokens allowed him to pursue his real interest, and that was making friends all over. Many of you were part of that friendship."

VINCENT CHICCO AND HIS BLIND TIGER

Tony Chibbaro (CM #2)



The city of Charleston has always played a significant role in the history of the state of South Carolina. From its beginnings in 1670 as a small colonial settlement at the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, through its growing importance as a seaport for the fledgling nation, to its part as the incendiary flashpoint in the sectional conflict which became the Civil War, the city has enjoyed a prominence that seemingly lifted it above similar communities in the state. It is no small wonder then, that some of its citizens thought the city to occupy a pedestal raised above its South Carolina neighbors.

It was this feeling of superiority that occasionally led some Charlestonians to consider themselves immune from the laws and social mores governing the rest of the state. And this sentiment, in turn, gave rise to the issuance of this month's token, which so publicly flaunted Charleston's opposition to the state dispensary law and the temperance movement behind it.

On its surface, the 29mm aluminum token shown above does not appear to carry any hint of its true nature. The innocuous inscription on the obverse reads GOOD FOR 5¢ IN TRADE AT CHICCO'S CAFE. The pictorial of the blindfolded tiger on the reverse, however, is a blatant advertisement for the "supposedly" clandestine saloon which Vincent Chicco operated in conjunction with his cafe. And, as such, the token speaks volumes on Charleston's open opposition to the state legislature's attempts to outlaw saloons and the sale of liquor by the drink in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

During the aforementioned time period hundreds of "blind tigers," as they were commonly called, sprung up in Charleston and other cities in South Carolina. The illegal drinking establishments were a logical response to Governor Ben Tillman's attempt to legislate the drinking habits of a populace which liked its liquor. Tillman had much difficulty in controlling the "blind tigers" across the state, but especially so in the city of Charleston. Several times during his tenure in office he had to send out state constables to arrest any proprietors they could catch selling alcohol illegally. Vincent Chicco was one of the first people arrested after the enactment of Tillman's dispensary bill. A scant two weeks after the bill became law, Chicco was arrested and brought before a judge for illegal liquor sales. The details of his arrest and subsequent legal proceedings were covered prominently in the Charleston newspapers and Chicco's case became infamous. Despite his brush with the law, he continued to sell alcohol to his customers in open defiance of the dispensary law and was subsequently arrested at least three times, in 1901, 1902, and 1903.

Chicco apparently operated more than one clandestine saloon, and became known as the "King of the Blind Tigers." His main base of operations was at 83 Market Street, where he and his growing family lived in an apartment above the premises. At times Chicco's business was listed in the city directories as a grocery, a delicatessen, a cafe, and a restaurant. Prior to July 1893, when the dispensary act came into effect, Chicco was listed as a saloonkeeper. In

1894 and beyond, his business was never again described as a saloon, but his advertisements in the city directories certainly made it known that he sold wines and liquors.



A postcard view of Vincent Chicco's Cafe at 83-85 Market Street in Charleston. Note his portrait at the upper right of the view.



One of a number of advertisements Chicco placed in the Charleston city directory, circa 1914.

Chicco parlayed his notoriety for opposing the dispensary law into his election to the Charleston City Council as alderman for his ward. He was elected to five consecutive terms and for his earnestness in representing the members of his district he gained the unofficial epithet "Mayor of Ward 3." Chicco died in 1928 at the age of 78. His obituary in the Charleston newspaper characterized him as "possessing a forceful personality" and a "raconteur of ability." The newspaper mentioned his emigration to this country from Italy as a teenager after a short stint as a merchant seaman. Chicco then worked on one of the local railroads for a short period, after which he was employed as a policeman for the city of Charleston. He started his saloon business in 1892. He married Miss Mary Ann Burke of Charleston and had four children, Joseph, Vincent, Jr., Natalie, and an unidentified daughter.

Incidentally, the term "blind tiger" as a synonym for an illegal drinking establishment can be traced back to the 1850s. A sister term "blind pig" dates from the 1870s. The terms derive from clandestine establishments that would advertise exotic animals on their window blinds, charging admission to see the said animals, which of course were not inside. Once admitted, patrons were then served with the illegal refreshment of their choice. The following limerick summarizes the ruse:

"See the tiger inside!" said the blind
On the store, though behind it you'd find
Neither Bengal nor cat,
Just a liquor-filled vat
And the patrons who paid didn't mind.

Sources:

- *The South Carolina Dispensary & Embossed S.C. Whiskey Bottles & Jugs, 1865-1915* by Harvey S. Teal and Rita Foster Wallace, Midlands Printing Company, Camden, S.C., 2005.
- *South Carolina Postcards, Volume I, Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties* by Howard Woody and Thomas L. Johnson, Arcadia Publishing Company, Charleston, S.C., 1997.
- *The Red Tape Cocktail: Charleston's Reaction to the South Carolina Dispensary System* by Helen Glenn Smith, published in *Chrestomathy: Annual Review of Undergraduate Research, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Charleston, Volume 4, 2005*: pp 195-217, College of Charleston, 2005.
- *Chicco Funeral This Afternoon* in *News & Courier*, October 26, 1928.
- *OEDILF: The Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form* online at <http://www.oedilf.com>.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

SOUTH CAROLINA SUPPLEMENTS: 1st Supplement to South Carolina Tokens (1994) 23pp, \$5.00 ppd; 2nd Supplement to South Carolina Tokens (1999) 31pp, \$6.00 ppd; 3rd Supplement to South Carolina Tokens (2004) 37pp, \$8.00 ppd. All three supplements, \$18.00 ppd. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (803-252-1881) chibbaro@mindspring.com

(CUMNOCK, NC) JOHN H. KENNEDY - I have the 25 and 50 pieces. Both for \$60 post paid and insured. One set only. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729. ELADON@BRINET.COM

FOR TRADE

PERSONAL TOKEN: Will trade my personal wooden nickel for your personal token or any token from Florida. Robert D. Beisiegel, P.O. Box 460, Nobleton, FL 34661, bike@atlantic.net

WANTED

WANT TO BUY NORTH CAROLINA DUN & BRADSTREET for 1941, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 1949, originals or full size copies. Bob King, 33 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712-4227, 828-883-8028, tokenaddict@citcom.net

ARTICLES, CLASSIFIED ADS, NEW FINDS, letters to the editor and what have you. Your newsletter can only be as good as you want it to be.

APRIL 29 MEETING INFORMATION

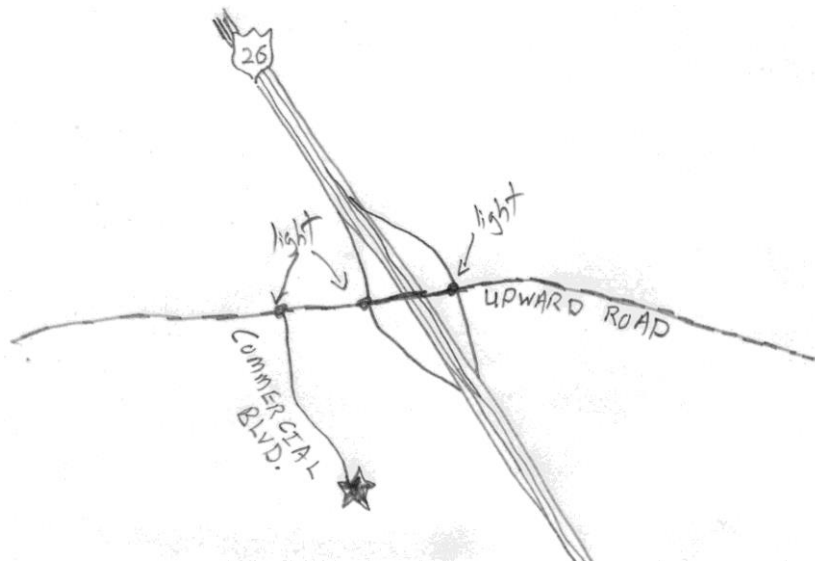
A map showing the meeting location is shown below. But first, here's some local information. North of the Holiday Inn Express, if you take Exit 49B, that's Highway 64 West, and follow it for about 1.8 miles you will see hanging above the left hand lane a sign reading "Downtown" with an arrow pointing straight ahead. At the next street you will see a sign reading "Downtown" with an arrow pointing left. Turn left there and park as soon as you can find a spot. This is Main Street, the historic area of Hendersonville. There are antique, and other interesting shops galore. And, while there is a Cracker Barrel restaurant just a few steps from the Holiday Inn Express, if you choose to eat in the historic area here are some suggestions. For something light, Three Chopt at 103 Third Ave E (that's just a few steps off Main Street) is an interesting place with excellent sandwiches. For pub food (fish and

chips, chicken pot pie, “Bangers and Mash”) try Hannah Flanagans at 300 N. Main. Hannah Flanagans also has hundreds of types of beer if you care for that sort of thing. For a little more up scale eating try Expressions at 114 N. Main, directly across from the old court house. Their low country crab cakes with grits are really outstanding.

And, if you enjoy flea markets, there is a big one on Highway 25 north of Hendersonville. Take Exit 44 and go north on Highway 25 about 1 mile. You will see Smiley’s Flea Market on your right. If the weather is good there will be more than 100 dealers.

Finally, we will have LOTS of local information available in the meeting room at the Holiday Inn Express. You can have your spouse (or significant other) drop you at the Holiday Inn Express, pick up the local information, and then enjoy Hendersonville while you enjoy tokens.

Now, here’s a map showing the location of the Holiday Inn Express. Remember, take Exit 53.



MAVERICK TOKEN – CAN YOU HELP?



NICKS PLACE / (ORN) / BEAUFORT / (ORN) / HOTEL // GOOD FOR / 2 ½ ¢ / IN TRADE - SC (8), AL, 25mm.

This is an early 1900s token likely from Beaufort, North Carolina or South Carolina.

CARTS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print

Name: _____

Street Address or P.O.B.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ Telephone (Work): _____

Token Collecting Interests: _____

Membership in other Organizations, NTCA, TAMS, SETS, AVA, OTHER _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Carolina Token Society.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

- Membership benefits include the CARTS Newsletter and a free Classified AD up to a maximum of 50 words in each issue.
- One-year membership - \$10.00.

Send completed application with dues to:

Robert S. King
33 Cardinal Drive
Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 883-8028
tokenaddict@citcom.net